

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-39 (canceled)

1 Claim 40 (previously presented): An information
2 acquisition device which acquires digital information
3 from a server, the information acquisition device
4 comprising:
5 an image capturing unit shooting a subject and
6 capturing image data of a subject image formed by a
7 taking lens;
8 an information request creation unit creating an
9 information request that includes an address specifying
10 the information acquisition device;
11 a first transmission unit transmitting, wirelessly,
12 an information request signal that includes the
13 information request, without specifying any destination
14 address of the information request signal;
15 a reception unit receiving a radio signal addressed
16 to the information acquisition device and transmitted
17 wirelessly from the server in response to the information
18 request signal transmitted by the first transmission
19 unit, and acquiring information contained in the radio
20 signal;
21 an information storage unit storing the image data
22 captured by the image capturing unit in addition to the
23 information acquired by the reception unit;
24 an operation unit detecting one user operation of a
25 shutter switch for issuing an instruction to transmit the
26 information request signal by the first transmission unit
27 or to capture image data by the image capturing unit; and

28 a mode selecting unit selecting a mode from (1) an
29 information acquisition mode, (2) an image capture mode
30 and (3) a mix mode,
31 wherein when the operation unit detects the user
32 operation of the shutter switch, then issues an
33 instruction (A) to transmit the information request
34 signal to the server only during the information
35 acquisition mode, (B) to capture image data only during
36 the image acquisition mode, or (C) to transmit the
37 information request signal to the server and to capture
38 image data during the mix mode, and
39 wherein the first transmission unit has directivity
40 and radiates the information request signal in a
41 direction through an optical axis of the taking lens, and
42 the reception unit has one of (A) no directivity and (B)
43 broader directivity than the first transmission unit.

Claim 41 (canceled)

1 Claim 42 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further
3 comprising:
4 an information transmission unit externally
5 transmitting the information or the image data stored in
6 the information storage unit, the information acquired by
7 the reception unit, or the image data captured by the
8 image capturing unit.

1 Claim 43 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 42, further
3 comprising:

4 a selection unit selecting the information or the
5 image data stored in the information storage unit,
6 wherein the information transmission unit externally
7 transmits the information or the image data selected by
8 the selection unit.

1 Claim 44 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 43, wherein the
3 information transmission unit transmits information to an
4 address indicating a predetermined destination.

1 Claim 45 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further
3 comprising:
4 a setting unit setting information relating to a
5 type of information received and acquired by the
6 reception unit,
7 wherein the information request creation unit
8 further includes information relating to a type of
9 information set by the setting unit in the information
10 request signal.

1 Claim 46 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 45, further
3 comprising:
4 an information screen unit screening the information
5 received by the reception unit,
6 wherein information to be acquired is selected by
7 the information screen unit from the information received
8 by the reception unit, and the screened information is
9 stored in the information storage unit.

1 Claim 47 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 46, wherein
3 screening standards of the information screened by the
4 information screen unit designate a type of information
5 set by the setting unit, and only the information of the
6 type set by the setting unit is stored in the information
7 storage unit.

1 Claim 48 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 45, wherein the
3 information relating to the type of identification
4 relates to at least one of a size of information, a type
5 of information, a style of information, a file format of
6 information, a content of information, and a field of
7 information.

1 Claim 49 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 45, wherein the
3 information relating to a type of information refers to
4 information indicating a same target and a different type
5 of information size.

1 Claim 50 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 49, wherein the
3 information relating to a type of information includes
4 information relating to at least one type of common
5 information, summary information obtained by summarizing
6 the common information, and address information in a
7 network containing information.

1 Claim 51 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further
3 comprising:
4 a server address extraction unit extracting a server
5 address designating an information providing source
6 contained in the information acquired by the reception
7 unit; and
8 a second transmission unit transmitting a signal in
9 a style different from a style of the first transmission
10 unit.

1 Claim 52 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 51, wherein the
3 second transmission unit transmits by wireless a signal
4 using an electromagnetic wave including light and a sound
5 wave including ultrasonic, and the signal transmitted by
6 wireless from the second transmission unit has no
7 directivity or has broader directivity than the signal
8 transmitted by the first transmission unit.

1 Claim 53 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 52, wherein when
3 the information received by the reception unit is address
4 information in a network in which the information exists,
5 the second transmission unit transmits an information
6 request signal to the server address extracted by the
7 server address extraction unit.

1 Claim 54 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 52, further
3 comprising:

4 an information presentation unit presenting all or a
5 part of the information acquired by the reception unit,
6 or the image data captured by the image capturing unit;
7 a selection unit selecting at least an information
8 item from the information presented by the information
9 presentation unit; and
10 an ID information addition unit adding information
11 ID designating information corresponding to the
12 information item selected by the selection unit to the
13 signal to be transmitted, wherein the first transmission
14 unit or the second transmission unit transmits the signal
15 to be transmitted.

1 Claim 55 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further
3 comprising:

4 a warning unit giving a warning when the
5 information acquired by the reception unit is incomplete
6 or when it is determined that information cannot be
7 completely acquired.

1 Claim 56 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 52, wherein the
3 first transmission unit or the second transmission unit
4 retransmits the signal to be transmitted when the
5 information acquired by the reception unit is incomplete
6 or when it is determined that information cannot be
7 completely acquired.

1 Claim 57 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 55, wherein the
3 warning unit gives a warning when a size of the

4 information acquired by the reception unit exceeds a
5 predetermined size or a free storage capacity of the
6 information storage unit.

1 Claim 58 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 55, wherein the
3 warning unit gives a warning when the information
4 received and acquired by the reception unit relates to a
5 size of continually transmitted information, and the size
6 of the information exceeds a predetermined size or a free
7 storage capacity of the information storage unit.

1 Claim 59 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 58, wherein when
3 the size of the information acquired by the reception
4 unit exceeds a predetermined size or a free storage
5 capacity of the information storage unit, the information
6 is automatically changed to the information relating to a
7 type of information of a smaller size, the information
8 request creation unit creates a second information
9 request including the information relating to the type of
10 information, and the first transmission unit or the
11 second transmission unit retransmits the information
12 request signal.

1 Claim 60 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further
3 comprising:
4 an information size setting unit setting a maximum
5 value of a size of information that can be received and
6 acquired by the reception unit,

7 wherein the information request creation unit
8 further includes information relating to the maximum
9 value of the size of the information that can be acquired
10 and is set by the information size setting unit to the
11 information request signal.

1 Claim 61 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 60, wherein the
3 information size setting unit automatically sets the
4 maximum value of the size of the information that can be
5 acquired into the free storage capacity of the
6 information storage unit.

Claim 62 (canceled)

1 Claim 63 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further
3 comprising:
4 an equipment information storage unit storing
5 equipment information about the information acquisition
6 device,
7 wherein the information request creation unit
8 further includes the equipment information stored in the
9 equipment information storage unit in the information
10 request signal.

1 Claim 64 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 63, wherein the
3 equipment information contains at least one or more of a
4 maker name, a model number, a product serial number, and
5 version information about firmware of the information
6 acquisition device.

1 Claim 65 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further
3 comprising:

4 an information acquisition history storage unit
5 storing information designation information designating
6 the information received and acquired by the reception
7 unit; and

8 an acquired information determination unit
9 determining whether or not information newly received by
10 the reception unit has been acquired before according to
11 the information designation information about the newly
12 received information,

13 wherein the information storage unit stores
14 information determined by the acquired information
15 determination unit that the information has not been
16 acquired in the information received by the reception
17 unit.

1 Claim 66 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 65, wherein the
3 information designation information stored in the
4 information acquisition history storage unit is
5 information containing either one of an address of a
6 device which transmits the signal received by the
7 reception unit or the information ID assigned to the
8 information received by the reception unit.

1 Claim 67 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further
3 comprising:
4 a detection unit detecting that there is an
5 information providing device capable of providing

6 information for the information acquisition device in the
7 direction of the directivity.

1 Claim 68 (original): The information acquisition device
2 according to claim 67, wherein the detection unit further
3 comprises:

4 an issued signal reception unit receiving an issued
5 signal from the information providing device; and
6 a notification unit notifying that there is the
7 information providing device detected when the issued
8 signal is received by the issued signal reception unit.

1 Claim 69 (original): The information acquisition device
2 according to claim 67, wherein when the detection unit
3 does not detect presence of the information providing
4 device, an information acquiring operation is not
5 performed.

1 Claim 70 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 67, wherein when
3 the detection unit does not detect existence of the
4 information providing device, and when the mode selecting
5 unit selects the mix mode, an image is captured only as
6 in the mode of acquiring only an image.

1 Claim 71 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further
3 comprising:
4 a program update unit extracting a control program,
5 and updating all or a part of the control program stored
6 in the program memory to be updated based on the control
7 program when the control program of the information

8 acquisition device is contained in the signal received by
9 the reception unit.

1 Claim 72 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 71, further
3 comprising:
4 an unreasonable program check unit detecting whether
5 or not an unreasonable program is contained in the
6 information acquired by the reception unit;
7 an unreasonable program warning unit giving a
8 warning when it is detected by the unreasonable program
9 check unit that an unreasonable program is contained in
10 the information acquired by the reception unit; and
11 an unreasonable program deletion unit deleting
12 acquired information when it is detected by the
13 unreasonable program check unit that an unreasonable
14 program is contained in the information acquired by the
15 reception unit.

1 Claim 73 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further
3 comprising:
4 an encryption unit encrypting all or a part of the
5 information included by the information request creation
6 unit in the information request signal [using an
7 encryption key contained in the information received and
8 acquired by the reception unit.

1 Claim 74 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 73, wherein the
3 information request creation unit further includes the

4 encryption key request information in the information
5 request signal.

1 Claim 75 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, further
3 comprising:
4 an encryption key generation unit generating an
5 encryption key and a decryption key; and
6 a decryption unit decrypting encrypted information
7 contained in the signal received by the reception unit
8 using the decryption key,
9 wherein the information request creation unit
10 includes an encryption key generated by the encryption
11 key information generation unit in the information
12 request signal.

1 Claim 76 (previously presented): The information
2 acquisition device according to claim 40, wherein the
3 reception unit further comprises a communication unit
4 using a public network and receiving, regenerating, and
5 communicating common voice through the public network.

Claims 77-134 (canceled)

1 Claim 135 (previously presented): An information
2 providing method in an information providing system
3 having an information acquisition device which acquires
4 digital information and shoots an image, and an
5 information providing device capable of providing
6 information at an information request from the
7 information acquisition device, wherein the information
8 acquisition device performs:

9 a selecting step to select a mode from (1) an
10 information acquisition mode, (2) an image capture mode
11 and (3) a mix mode;
12 a detection step to detect one user operation of a
13 shutter switch for capturing image data and acquiring
14 information;
15 an image capture and information reception step to
16 capture image data of a subject image formed by a taking
17 lens, and to receive by a reception unit the information
18 transmitted, wirelessly, from the information providing
19 device, when the mix mode is selected; and
20 a storage step to store the received information and
21 the captured image in an information memory of the
22 information acquisition device,
23 wherein the information reception in the image
24 capture and information reception step is performed,
25 at the information acquisition device as a step to
26 create an information request signal that includes an
27 address specifying a reception unit of the information
28 acquisition device and a step to transmit wirelessly the
29 information request signal from a transmission unit
30 without specifying any destination address of the
31 information request signal, and
32 at the information providing device as a step to
33 receive the information request signal from the
34 information acquisition device, a step to extract the
35 address of the reception unit of the information
36 acquisition device from the received information request
37 signal and a step to transmit wirelessly information read
38 from an information database to the extracted address,
39 wherein when the information acquisition mode is
40 selected then the image capture in the image capture and

41 information reception step is not performed and only the
42 received information is saved in the information memory
43 in the storage step,

44 when the image capture mode is selected then the
45 information reception in the image capture and
46 information reception step is not performed and the
47 captured image is saved in the information memory in the
48 storage step; and

49 wherein the transmission unit has directivity and
50 radiates the information request signal in a direction
51 through an optical axis of the taking lens, and the
52 reception unit has no directivity or has broader
53 directivity than the first transmission unit.

Claims 136-265 (canceled)

1 Claim 266 (new): An information acquisition device which
2 acquires digital information from a server, the
3 information acquisition device comprising:

4 an image capturing unit shooting a subject and
5 capturing image data of a subject image formed by a
6 taking lens;

7 an information request creation unit creating an
8 information request that includes an address specifying
9 the information acquisition device;

10 a first transmission unit radiating an information
11 request signal that includes the information request,
12 without specifying any destination address of the
13 information request signal;

14 a reception unit receiving a radio signal addressed
15 to the information acquisition device and transmitted
16 wirelessly from the server in response to the information

17 request signal transmitted by the first transmission
18 unit, and acquiring information contained in the radio
19 signal;
20 an information storage unit storing the image data
21 captured by the image capturing unit in addition to the
22 information acquired by the reception unit;
23 an operation unit detecting one user operation of a
24 shutter switch for issuing an instruction to transmit the
25 information request signal by the first transmission unit
26 or to capture image data by the image capturing unit; and
27 a mode selecting unit selecting a mode from (1) an
28 information acquisition mode, (2) an image capture mode
29 and (3) a mix mode,
30 wherein the first transmission unit has directivity
31 and radiates the information request signal in a
32 direction through an optical axis of the taking lens, and
33 the reception unit has one of (a) no directivity and (b)
34 broader directivity than the first transmission unit, and
35 wherein
36 (A) when the operation unit detects the user
37 operation of the shutter switch in the mix mode, the
38 image capture unit captures image data of the subject
39 image formed by the taking lens and the first
40 transmission unit radiates the information request signal
41 in the direction through the optical axis of the taking
42 lens, and both the captured image and the acquired
43 information are stored in the information storage unit,
44 (B) when the operation unit detects the user
45 operation of the shutter switch in the image capture
46 mode, the image capture unit captures the image data of
47 the subject image formed by the taking lens but the first
48 transmission unit does not radiate the information

49 request signal, and only the captured image is stored in
50 the information storage unit, and
51 (C) when the operation unit detects the user
52 operation of the shutter switch in the information
53 acquisition mode, the first transmission unit radiates
54 the information request signal in the direction through
55 the optical axis of the taking lens but the image capture
56 unit does not capture the image data of the subject
57 image, and only the acquired information is stored in the
58 information storage unit.